

Letter of Support for SB444

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am writing this letter representing two organizations and as a private citizen. I am President of the Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association. This organization represents stakeholders and landowners on a Chain of fifteen lakes largely situated in Watersmeet, Michigan. The waters extend down into Wisconsin. I also am on the board of directors of the Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet. This is a proactive organization focused on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention and mitigation efforts on all bodies of water within Township Boundries.

Both organizations are progressive forward thinking entities highly concerned about AIS. I must point out that AIS and ANS are sometimes used interchangeably. The term ANS, Aquatic Nuisance Species does not adequately reference these harmful organisms. They are a far greater concern than a simple nuisance. These vexing invaders have the ability to render water bodies useless for recreation, destroy indigenous eco systems and reduce property values. The potential harm they present is staggering.

It is a result of these serious concerns to lake riparian owners, water sport enthusiasts, fishermen, and governmental jurisdictions, and out of concern for the tax base and tourist revenue at stake, Senator Casperson was approached to champion the cause for help from the State of Michigan. He was asked to intervene on behalf of citizens and organizations in the Western UP to assist in streamlining some of the bureaucracy that has been a roadblock in the process of treating aquatic invasive plants. Furthermore Senator Casperson was asked to advocate for financial assistance from the State in some similar fashion to surrounding states.

Senator Casperson has been sympathetic and responsive to the individuals, organizations and governmental jurisdictions that have prevailed upon him for representation. SB 444 is the result of listening attentively his constituents. He is to be commended on his commitment to hearing the publics' voice both in dialogue with individuals and organizations and also at town hall meetings. This important topic demands the full attention of the State Senate. SB 444 is the result of gathering much input and much thoughtful consideration by Senator Casperson.

On a side note, earlier this year, I attended a Joint Citizens Advisory Council of the Upper Peninsula held in Marquette Michigan. During that meeting in the presence of fifty collective members of both the Eastern UP and Western UP Advisory Councils and an audience of the public and media, DNR officials from Lansing outlined proposed DNR fee structure change via teleconference. This was in response to a directive of Governor Snyder to study generating and allocating new revenues. When proposed allocations were outlined, I was incensed at the meager amount that was projected toward Invasive Species. In comparison to other allocations I felt the amount was outrageous. It is time the Great State of Michigan recognizes the importance of being a meaningful participant in the war against all Invasive species.

I urge every member of the Senate to support the bill.

Greg Wenzel E19579 Roddis Rd. Watersmeet, MI 49969 906-358-0242 gswenzel@yahoo.com